

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 IO-13 LAB-04
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15
NSC-05 PA-01 /146 W

-----106311 290546Z /10

R 281712Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5655
INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06800

USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: COMMON FUND: COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL
MEETING, THREE VIEWS

REF: (A) STATE 82918; (B) LONDON 5161; (C) LONDON 5393;
(D) LONDON 6113; (E) LONDON A-180; (F) CANBERRA
2800; (G) WELLINGTON 1789; (H) WELLINGTON 1593;
(I) KUALA LUMPUR 2881; (J) OTTAWA 2087; (K)
LONDON 5648; (L) NEW DELHI 6219; (M) LONDON 5975

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTELS AND IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN
FURTHER INSIGHTS INTO WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THE COMMON-
WEALTH COMMON FUND MEETING, EMBOFF CONTACTED FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICIALS (FCO), MINISTRY OF TRADE
OFFICIALS, AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR
VIEWS OF THE RESULTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING,
SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS.

2. FOREIGN OFFICE VIEW. THE FCO LOOKS BACK AT THE
MEETING AS A MOST DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING WHICH ENDED UP
ON A POSITIVE NOTE AND IN AN AMICABLE FASHION. THE FCO
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FEELS THE UK CAME OUT OF THE MEETING UNSCATHED IN TERMS
OF ITS POSITION ON THE FUND AND ON ITS ADHERENCE TO
THE GROUP-B APPROACH. PRIOR TO THE MEETING THERE WAS
SOME APPREHENSION THAT THE U.K. MIGHT BE MOVED OFF ITS
STATED POSITION ON THE FUND. A LITTLE BIT OF FLEXI-
BILITY ON THE SECOND WINDOW IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE ONLY
CONCESSION MADE. SOME FCO COMMENTS ON THE PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES INCLUDE:

(A) JAMAICA: JAMAICIAN DEMANDS FOR A MINI-
SUMMIT(REFTEL K)HELPED DEFLECT SOME OF THE ENERGY OF
THE POTENTIALLY MORE RADICAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE LONDON
MEETING.

(B) INDIA: THE INDIAN DELEGATION TOOK AN UN-
EXPECTEDLY TOUGH G-77 LINE AT THE MEETING.

(C) BANGLADESH, MALAYSIA AND JAMAICA PLAYED KEY
ROLES IN SUSTAINING THE G-77 POSITION ON THE COMMON
FUND, BUT IN FAR LESS STRIDENT TONES THAN PRESENTED
IN GENEVA MEETINGS.

(D) SIERRA LEONE: SIERRA LEONE TOOK A VERY ACTIVE PART IN THE MEETING, INTERVENING CONTINUALLY ON ALL ISSUES, USING G-77 JARGON.

(E) AUSTRALIA: AUSTRALIA LEFT NO QUESTION THAT IT HAD SHIFTED ITS POSITION ON THE FUND, BUT NOTED THAT ANY DECISIONS ON "OTHER MEASURES" WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT IN ANY RESUMED CONFERENCE.

(F) NEW ZEALAND: IT WAS UNCLEAR HOW NEW ZEALAND CAME OUT ON "OTHER MEASURES", BUT THE NZ DELEGATION HELD FIRM WITH CANADA AND THE UK ON DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER ISSUES.

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3. A NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY OFFICER WHO ATTENDED THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06800

MEETINGS GAVE THE FOLLOWING RUN WOWN: CANADA, HARD LINE;
NEW ZEALAND AND UK, IN HARD LINE CAMP, BUT HAPPY TO LET
CANADA TAKE THE LEAD; AUSTRALIA, A DOVE, HIGHLY MANAGED
BY THE G-77. THE NZ OFFICIAL NOTED THE UK DID NOT SHIFT
ITS BASIC POSITION ALTHOUGH MINISTER OF TRADE DELL, AS
CHAIRMAN AND SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOST COUNTRY,
(SEE REFAIR) FOUND IT DIFFICULT AT TIMES TO DEFEND HIS
TERRAIN. AS FAR AS THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS CONCERNED,
THE DEVELOPED COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS WERE WORN DOWN BY THE
TIME IT WAS DRAFTED, SO IN SPITE OF SOME MISGIVINGS, IT
WAS ACCEPTED.

4. MINISTRY OF TRADE VIEW. INDIA MADE A ONE MAN RUN
AT THE MEETING, ASSUMING A HIGH PROFILE AND TAKING A
TOUGH LINE. THE MINISTRY ASSUMED INDIA WOULD INTERORET
THE COMMUNIQUE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE UK, BUT THAT WAS NOT
CONSIDERED A REAL PROBLEM (SEE REFTEL L). THE MINISTRY
DOES NOT EXPECT THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING TO HAVE MUCH
EFFECT ON THE UK COMMON FUND EFFORT. THE SOURCE OF
FINANCE PARAGRAPH IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL M) IS
NOT IDEAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF TRADE POINT OF VIEW.

THE MINISTRY NOTES THE ONLY SIGNAL INTENDED WAS ON
THE SECOND WINDOW.

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5. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT VIEW. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT FEELS THE COMMUNIQUE ALLOWS FOR NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES IF ONE ONLY READS BETWEEN THE LINES. THE UK AND CANADA OFFER SOME POSSIBILITIES, BUT NEW ZEALAND OFFERED SOMEWHAT LESS FLEXIBILITY THAN THE FIRST TWO. ALTHOUGH DEVELOPED COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS TOOK A MIXED POSITION, THEY CONCEDED DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN ANY EVENT. THERE WAS SOME HINT OF LIMITED DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS ALSO. NEW ZEALAND AND EVEN THE UK MENTIONED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SECOND WINDOW. NONE OF THE G-77 MEMBERS PRESENT TOOK A HARD G-77 LINE. SIERRA LEONE STRESSED THE NEED FOR A JOINT COMMONWEALTH POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND, BUT RECEIVED NO SUPPORT. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT THINKS THE STRONG INDIAN ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE WAS A PERSONAL ONE OF THEIR CHIEF DELEGATE, WHO HAS HOPES OF SECURING A SENIOR POSITION IN ANY FUTURE COMMON FUND ORGANIZATION.

6. A COMPLETE SET OF DOCUMENTS FROM THE MEETING IS BEING POUCHED TO EB/ORF/ICD.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON06800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780183-0602
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978045/aaaaadzh.tel
Line Count: 256
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 648212ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 82918, 78 LONDON 5161, 78 LONDON 5393, 78 LONDON 6113, 78 LONDON A-180, 78 CANBERRA 719
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2947910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMON FUND: COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL MEETING, THREE VIEWS
TAGS: ETRD, US, UNCTAD
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/648212ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014